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Propaganda on public TV

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) distributes federally appropriated funds to 200 public radio stations and 150 public television stations. Outlays for CPB this year will be \$137 million.

Although public radio and television have long experienced consistently low ratings, many taxpayers probably feel that the money is well spent since it supports quality programs not available on commercial outlets. I strongly suspect this perception would rapidly change if the public were aware of how their taxes are frequently used to subsidize liberal-leftist propaganda.

Public television, for example, commemorated the 25th anniversary of the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who had been convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union, by airing a blatantly pro-Rosenberg program depicting them as martyrs and victims of an unjust judicial system. According to this view, the couple was singled out for punishment because of their unpopular political beliefs. The narrator set this theme at the beginning of the program by saying that it was "perhaps we (Americans) who have a lot of explaining to do." Later on we're told, "Capitalism has failed. A new system might be better. Socialism is its name, and for many the vehicle of change is the Communist Party."

Another program of obvious bias shown on public television was "A China Memoir," produced by that well-known political analyst Shirley MacLaine. The chairman of the Public Broadcasting Service described the show, which portrayed life in Communist China as little less than wonderful, as "pure propaganda."

Viewers of public television have also been treated to an attack on the Central Intelligence Agency featuring Philip Agee, a defector who has tried to destroy the CIA by publicly identifying agents. Mr. Agee has admitted he aspires to be a Communist and a revolutionary and that he approves of KGB activities because of its goals and motives.

Public broadcasting, not surprisingly, is on the anti-nuclear bandwagon. One program on the subject was, according to a sympathetic Washington Post review, "a wide-ranging and one-sided attack on all things nuclear." Another was so unfair that only nine out of 268 public television stations chose to air it. Unfortunately, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting had already spent \$125,000 on it. Last year the CPB supplied another \$40,000 for a program promoting a nuclear freeze.

Public radio stations do not limit themselves to airing leftist themes.

Americans should not be forced to pay for propaganda and filth.

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